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# RAAC Newsletter February 2014

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## **Greetings, everyone!**

RAAC has begun 2014 with a full calendar of events. Movies are back with award-winning "Blue Jasmine" showing February 7, a Library talk on Valentine's Day with Steve Monfort speaking on the romantic mysteries of wildlife, a Soup & Soul event with Dietlinde Turban Maazel at Castleton on February 22, and rehearse, rehearse, rehearse at the RAAC Community Theatre in preparation for upcoming plays.

For the second year, we are again seeking proposals for Mitchell Fund grants from Rappahannock's artists and organizations. Our membership drive for 2014 is underway as well, and we look forward to you renewing and joining in on the fun.

**Joanne Hilty, President, RAAC**

# RAAC Newsletter

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February 2014

[www.raac.org](http://www.raac.org)

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The Rappahannock Association  
for the Arts and the Community



**Top: Mitchell Fund recipient Sarah Grenzeback.**

*Photo by Caitie Whelan*  
**Bottom: Children enjoying a Kid Pan Alley event sponsored by the Fund**

*Photo by Cheryl Toth*

## **RAAC seeks proposals for 2014 Mitchell Fund arts grants**

### **Deadline March 15**

Grants for Rappahannock County artists and organizations are available to emerging and established artists of all ages, arts organizations, arts programs within community-based organizations, collaborative projects, and especially to projects with a community focus.

Mitchell Fund Committee chair Barbara Black remarked, "The Committee and Board are thrilled to offer another round of grants and eagerly await a new crop of proposals and more great projects. We are thrilled at the diversity and quality of art-making in the county and are pleased to encourage more."

In 2013, \$19,000 was awarded in Mitchell Fund grants ranging from \$150 to \$3,500. Recent grants include community music performances, after-school photography workshops, artists' continuing education, video productions, and support for young artists.

For grant guidelines, an application, and a list of recent grantees and projects, or to contribute to the Fund, visit the [Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund page](#) on RAAC's website.

The Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund is RAAC's primary channel for offering financial support to the arts in Rappahannock. It was established with a generous bequest from the estate of Claudia Mitchell, RAAC's president for many years and a dedicated supporter of the arts and community. Grants are funded through ongoing donations, fundraising events, and income generated by RAAC programs including the annual Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour.

[Click to donate to the Mitchell Fund.](#)

### **First Friday at the Movies: "Blue Jasmine"**

**Friday, Feb 7, 8pm, \$6, at The Theatre At Washington  
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA**

Starring Cate Blanchett, Alec Baldwin, Sally Hawkins  
Written/directed by Woody Allen  
Rated PG-13, 98 minutes

Jasmine French used to be on the top of the heap as a New York socialite, but now is returning to her estranged sister in San Francisco utterly ruined. As Jasmine struggles with her haunting memories of a privileged past bearing dark realities she ignored, she tries to recover in her present.

Unfortunately, it all proves a losing battle as Jasmine's narcissistic hangups and their consequences begin to overwhelm her. In doing so, her old pretensions and new deceits begin to foul up everyone's lives, especially her own.



For her work in this film, Cate Blanchett won the 2014 Golden Globe award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama.

**Upcoming movies:**

"Enough Said", Mar 7, 8pm, Julia Louis-Dreyfus,  
James Gandolfini, Catherine Keener  
"Captain Philips", Apr 2, 8pm, Tom Hanks,  
Barkhad Abdi, Barkhad Abdirahman

[Click to visit RAAC's film page.](#)



**Top: Steve Monfort with clouded leopard cub. Bottom: Monfort with tiger.**

*Photos courtesy Steve Monfort*

**Second Friday at the Library: Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Director Steve Monfort**

**Friday, Feb 14, 8pm, Rappahannock County Library**

In honor of Valentine's Day, Steve Monfort, one of the Smithsonian Institute's leading scientists, will speak on "Secret Tales of a Wildlife Sex Doctor." The talk is free to the public.

Listeners will hear Monfort's stories of "studs" and "duds" in the animal kingdom. Cole Porter wrote years ago that "birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it." But, perhaps because of the difficulty of finding suitable rhymes, he dropped matters there. Monfort will fill in the rest of the picture.

Monfort, the Director of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute at Front Royal, will explain why pandas are so finicky, how cheetahs spruce up their Lover's Lane, and many more romantic mysteries.

A big name in the science of conservation, Monfort is also a gifted storyteller. He is acclaimed in the conservation community for his discoveries of how to encourage the breeding of species who seem reluctant to proceed on their own. Monfort and the Smithsonian are among the leaders in this research, but this is a field with far more riddles than answers. "Of the world's nearly 2 million species," Monfort notes, "we understand the breeding needs of fewer than 300!"

**Upcoming library talks:**

*March:* Arthur Golden, author of "Memoirs of a Geisha"

*April:* Ruth Anna Stolk from Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

*May:* Bud Meyer, author of "Mother Fracker"

[Click to visit RAAC's Second Friday at the Library page.](#)

**Soup & Soul**

**Sat, Feb 22, 6:30pm,**  
**actress Dietlinde Turban Maazel**

**Sat, Mar 15, 6:30pm, painter Tom Mullany**

February's Soup & Soul features award-winning actress



**Dietlinde Turban Maazel.** The event will be held at the Theatre House at Castleton Farms, which she co-founded and directs with her husband, conductor Lorin Maazel.



This season, the February 22 Soup & Soul event will be held at the Theatre House at Castleton Farms, so there are more tickets than usual available for this performance. The March 15 event, however, will be held in a host home in the county, so space is limited.

Attendees for all events are asked to bring a pot luck dish (appetizer, side dish, or dessert) to share, and the hosts will provide soup.

Tickets are \$20 per person, per event, and are available via RAAC's website. [Click here to buy Soup & Soul tickets with your credit card or PayPal.](#)

Full information and directions to the host home/venue will be available upon purchase of tickets. For questions, call RAAC at 1-800-695-6075 and request Soup & Soul information.

[Click to visit RAAC's Soup & Soul page.](#)



## **RAAC Community Theatre's upcoming productions:**

### **March 28 & 29 - Two one-act plays "Company of One" and "The Nose"**

"Company of One" was awarded 2nd place honors at the 27th annual Henrico Theatre Company's One Act Playwright Competition, 2012. An original play by Virginia playwright Jane Dewberry, the shows at RAAC Community Theatre will be its premier performance outside of the festival competition. Set in World War II occupied France, this five-man comedy is a hilarious take on how the Allies really managed to launch the Normandy Invasion. The actors include some old familiar faces and some newer denizens. Directing is Deverell Pederson, niece of author Dewberry.

"The Nose" is a satirical tale by the Russian author Nikolai Gogol that has been adapted as a one-act play. It tells of a Russian official in the early 1800s whose nose leaves him and develops a life of its own, both walking and talking. The official fears that loss of his nose will remove him from office and make him unattractive to women. After several adventures, the nose is returned and reattached to the face to which it belongs. The director is long-time RAAC member Peter Hornbostel.

### **May 30 & 31 "The Dinner Party"**

Six strangers RSVP to a private dinner. On arrival, they discover that they are three divorced couples. The play begins as the party members discuss their marital ups and downs. As they dig deeper into their lives, the conversation slowly becomes more serious and the play ends on tender notes of pathos and hopefulness. Playwright Neil Simon, who has been married five times, draws on his own experiences for this moving show. The play ran for 364 performances on Broadway, and has had runs in Los Angeles and the Kennedy Center in Washington.

Ticket sales will be announced at a later date.

*[Click to visit RAAC's Theatre page.](#)*

**News:**

**Feeling the winter blues?**

Join RAAC and warm up with our plays, movies, library talks, soup, and more!

RAAC's annual 2014 membership drive is underway. Our letter inviting you to join or renew should have arrived by now - please have a look and join your friends and neighbors in supporting RAAC's community arts programs. You may also contribute directly to RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Fund, which offers grants to local artists and arts organizations.

To renew your RAAC membership and contribute to the Mitchell Fund, simply fill out the form on the letter mailed to you and return it with a check to RAAC. Or, go to [raac.org](http://raac.org) and click on "Donate to RAAC" to pay with your credit card or PayPal. You will receive acknowledgment of your contribution by mail.

As a member, you receive early notice of all events. Your contributions and participation will build and sustain a vibrant community through the arts.

*Support the arts, build community!*

*[Click to visit RAAC's Membership page.](#)*



**Mark Your Calendar!**

**For all the details, additions, and schedule changes, visit [RAAC's calendar](#).  
New events are added frequently, so please check often.**

[www.RAAC.org](http://www.RAAC.org)

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